

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01
VO-03 INSE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /050 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7181
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3525

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM ICRC VN
SUBJ: ICRC AND VIETNAM FAMILY REUNIONS

1. DEPTOFF SIEVERTS (D/HA) BRIEFED ICRC AND UNHCR
MAY 6 IN GENEVA ON FAMILY RENUNION ASPECTS OF VIETNAM TALKS
IN PARIS MAY 3-4, NOTING THAT SRV REP ACCEPTED ROLE OF
RED CROSS IN PARTICULAR ON THIS SUBJECT PENDING
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH USG.

2. ICRC SAID IT WOULD INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS ON BEHALF
OF CHILDREN AND OTHER DEPENDENTS OF AMCITS ON LIST
PROVIDED BY AMERICAN RED CROSS AND TRANSMITTED DECEMBER
1976 TO VIETNAMESE RED CROSS. ICRC OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE SAID HE HAD HAD USEFUL CONTACTS WITH
VRC AT INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MEETING IN NEW DELHI IN
MARCH 1977, DURING WHICH VRC HAD SAID IT WOULD DO WHAT
IT COULD. HOCKE IS INSTRUCTING ICRC DELEGATES IN HANOI
TO SEEK ADDITIONAL CONTACT WITH SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY
TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO EXPEDITE THESE CASES.

3. HOCKE STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR ICRC TO
RECEIVE ORIGINALS OF BIRTH AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES (AND
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OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS) FOR THOSE ON THE ARC LIST,
SINCE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES INSISTED ON SEEING ORIGINAL
DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT CLAIMS OF FAMILY TIES. HE NOTED
THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS OF FALSE DOCUMENTS IN VIETNAM
(E.G. IN CASE OF FILIPINOS SEEKING TO EMIGRATE, AS
REPORTED BY AFP FROM MANILA APRIL 18) WHICH ICRC COULD
HELP AVOID FOR AMCIT DEPENDENTS IF IT HAS THE ORIGINAL

DOCUMENTS. ICRC WILL ASK ARC TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING ORIGINALS.

4. FOR OTHER VIETNAMESE FAMILY REUNION CASES NOT ON ARC LIST HOCHE AGREED WITH SRV REP'S STATEMENT IN PARIS THAT APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE DESIGNATED EMIGRATION OFFICES IN SAIGON OR HANOI. HOCHE THOUGHT THE ARC CASES SHOULD BE HANDLED BY ICRC WITH VRC, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO POINT AT THIS STAGE FOR ICRC TO TRY TO ASSIST IN THE MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF CASES YET TO COME. UNHCR REPS ALSO AGREED FAMILIES HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO APPLY TO THE DULY DESIGNATED SRV OFFICES. ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO NEEDED FOR SUCH APPLICATIONS, WHICH RELATIVES IN U.S. WILL HAVE TO MAIL TO THEIR RELATIVES IN VIETNAM.

5. DEPTOFF STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN IN PARIS TALKS OF ACTUAL MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE, AND THAT VIETNAMESE MAY WELL DELAY ACTUAL DEPARTURES OF AMCIT RELATIVES PENDING PROGRESS ON NORMALIZATION. HE ENCOURAGED ICRC AND UNHCR TO PRESS FORWARD WITH THEIR EFFORTS ON THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM, WHICH BOTH AGENCIES AGREED TO DO.SORENSEN

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